

CLAIMS:

1. A movable sign system comprising:

a sign module;

a support structure; and

a positioning system movably mounting the sign module with respect to the support structure for movement between a use position and a maintenance position, when in the use position, the sign module at least partially extends over a road, and when in the maintenance position, the sign module is adjacent the road.

2. The movable sign system of claim 1, wherein the positioning system slides the sign module with respect to the support structure.

3. The movable sign system of claim 2, wherein the sign module is vertically slidable or horizontally slidable.

4. The movable sign system of claim 2, wherein the positioning system comprises:

a pulley mounted to the support structure;

a motor mounted to the support structure; and

a cable that extends around the pulley and a portion of the motor, wherein the sign module is attached to the cable.

5. The movable sign system of claim 2, wherein the positioning system comprises an upper rail and a lower rail that are each mounted to the support structure.

6. The movable sign system of claim 5, wherein the sign module includes a plurality of upper wheels and a plurality of lower wheels, wherein the plurality of upper wheels each engage the upper rail, and wherein the plurality of lower wheels each engage the lower rail.

7. The movable sign system of claim 1, wherein the positioning system pivots the sign module with respect to the support structure.

8. The movable sign system of claim 7, wherein the sign module is vertically pivotable or horizontally pivotable.

9. The movable sign system of claim 7, wherein the support structure comprises a support post, wherein the sign module comprises a sign post that is mounted with respect to the support post, and wherein the positioning system causes the sign post to pivot with respect to the support post.

10. The movable sign system of claim 9, wherein the positioning system comprises a motor that operably engages the support post and the sign post.

11. The movable sign system of claim 1, wherein the sign module displays a static message or a changeable message.

12. A movable sign system over a road, the movable sign system comprising:
a sign module displaying a message thereon, wherein the sign module includes a plurality of upper wheels and a plurality of lower wheels;

a stationary support structure mounted in proximity to the road; and

a positioning system comprising:

an upper rail mounted to the support structure, wherein the plurality of upper wheels each engage the upper rail;

a lower rail mounted to the support structure, wherein the plurality of lower wheels each engage the lower rail;

a pulley mounted to the support structure;

a motor mounted to the support structure; and

a cable that extends around the pulley and a portion of the motor, wherein the sign module is attached to the cable, wherein the sign module is movable between a use

position and a maintenance position, when in the use position, the sign module at least partially extends over the road, and when in the maintenance position, the sign module is adjacent the road.

13. A method of maintaining a sign module mounted on a stationary support structure over a traveled roadway, the method comprising the steps of:

mounting a positioning system on the support structure, the positioning system extending from directly over the roadway to a position off of the roadway;

operably mounting the sign module to the support structure by way of the positioning system;

moving the sign module with respect to the support structure to a use location directly over the roadway that facilitates viewing of the sign module but where direct access is limited or hazardous; and

moving the sign module with respect to the support structure to a maintenance position that is adjacent the use location not directly above the roadway where the sign module is readily accessible.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein moving the sign module with respect to the support structure comprises sliding the sign module on elongate members.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the positioning system comprises a threaded rod rotatably attached to the support structure and a nut attached to the sign module.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein moving the sign module with respect to the support structure comprises:

attaching a cable to the sign module; and

moving the cable with respect to the support structure with a motor.

17. The method of claim 14, and further comprising:

mounting the an upper rail and a lower rail to the support structure;

attaching a plurality of upper wheels and a plurality of lower wheels to the sign module; and

engaging the upper rail with the plurality of upper wheels and engaging the lower rail with the plurality of lower wheels.

18. The method of claim 13, wherein moving the sign module with respect to the support structure comprises pivoting the sign module.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the sign module pivots vertically or horizontally.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein the support structure comprises a support post, wherein the sign module comprises a sign post that is rotatably mounted with respect to the support post, and wherein rotation of the sign post with respect to the support post is done with a motor.

21. A method of maintaining a sign that is positioned over a use location that limits direct access to the sign or makes accessing the sign hazardous, the method comprising:

operably mounting a sign module to a support structure using a positioning system;

moving the sign module with respect to the support structure to a maintenance position that is adjacent the use location;

performing maintenance on the sign module; and

moving the sign module with respect to the support structure to the use location.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein moving the sign module with respect to the support structure comprises sliding the sign module.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the sign module slides vertically or horizontally.

24. The method of claim 22, wherein moving the sign module with respect to the support structure comprises:

attaching a cable to the sign module; and

moving the cable with respect to the support structure with a motor.

25. The method of claim 22, and further comprising

mounting the an upper rail and a lower rail to the support structure;

attaching a plurality of upper wheels and a plurality of lower wheels to the sign module; and

engaging the upper rail with the plurality of upper wheels and engaging the lower rail with the plurality of lower wheels.

26. The method of claim 21, wherein moving the sign module with respect to the support structure comprises pivoting the sign module.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein the sign module pivots vertically or horizontally.

28. The method of claim 26, wherein the support structure comprises a support post, wherein the sign module comprises a sign post that is rotatably mounted with respect to the support post, and wherein rotation of the sign post with respect to the support post is done with a motor.